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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 10/048,052 | 08/06/2002 | Thomas Flohr | P02.0001 | 2772 |
| 26574 | 7590 | 12/17/2003 | | |
| SCHIFF HARDIN & WAITE 6600 SEARS TOWER 233 S WACKER DR CHICAGO, IL. 60606-6473 | | | | |
| | | | EXAMINER SONG, HOON K | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2882 | PAPER NUMBER |

DATE MAILED 12/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/048,052

Applicant(s)

FLOHR ET AL.

Examiner

Hoon Song

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 August 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 7-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nahaliel et al. (US 6243438B1).

Regarding claim 7, Nahaliel teaches a computed tomography device comprising:
a radiation source (22) which emits a radiation beam from a focus (78), at least said focus being displaceable relative to a system axis to scan an examination subject (24) with said radiation beam from a plurality of projection angles;

a radiation detector (30) on which said radiation beam is incident after passing through said examination subject, said radiation detector being formed by a plurality of detector elements in rows proceeding substantially perpendicularly to said system axis

and columns proceeding substantially parallel to said system axis, each of said detector elements generating an electrical signal corresponding to radiation from said radiation beam incident thereon (figure 1 and 2);

a plurality of electronic elements for reading out said electrical signals from said detector elements, to generate measured values (figure 4A-4D);

the detector elements in a first region (center region) of said radiation detector being connected to a larger number of said electronic elements than the detector elements in a second region (peripheral region) of said radiation detector comprising a same number of said columns (figure 4A-4D); and

a computer (86) supplied with said measured values for reconstructing an image of said examination subject therefrom.

Regarding claim 8, Nahaliel teaches that the detector elements in at least one of said columns are not connected to any of said electronic elements (figure 4a-4d, element 50, 68).

Regarding claim 9, Nahaliel teaches that said computer generates additional measured values from said second region by interpolation of the measured values from the electronic elements connected to the detector elements in said second region (figure 4A-4D).

Regarding claim 10, Nahaliel teaches that said computer generates additional measured values from said second region by extrapolation from the measured values from the electronic elements connected to the detector elements in said first region (figure 4A-5D).

Regarding claim 11, Nahaliel teaches a support arrangement adapted to receive said examination subject thereon and a displacement arrangement for producing relative displacement between said radiation beam and said support mechanism along said system axis, with said projections being obtained at successive positions along said system axis (figure 1).

Regarding claim 12, Nahaliel teaches that said detector elements are detector elements which generate said electrical signals by producing electrical charges due to absorption of said radiation (figure 2).

Regarding claim 13, Nahaliel teaches that the detector elements in one of said rows have a first length in a direction along said system axis and wherein the detector elements in another of said rows have a second length in said direction along said system axis, said first and second lengths being different (figure 2).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoon Song whose telephone number is 703-308-2736. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5 PM, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Glick can be reached on 703-308-4858. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

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Art Unit: 2882

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Bruce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "B".

DAVID V. BRUCE
PRIMARY EXAMINER